



**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

An example of a processes of the prior art for producing a long chain N-acyl acidic amino acid derivative is disclosed in ~~JP-A-50-2973~~JP-B-50-2973, in which an N-acyl amino acid menthol ester is obtained by dissolving, a long chain N-acyl acidic amino acid anhydride and menthol in toluol or benzol in the presence of p-toluenesulfonic acid as a catalyst at around 100°C for reaction, and then neutralizing, water-washing and drying the reaction product. In this process, however, coloration in the resultant long chain N-acyl acidic menthol ester (light-yellow) is inevitable because the reaction temperature is high also, industrially implementing the process is difficult because the process involves complicated operations such as neutralization, water washing and drying.

Page 3, replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

In JP-A-2000-44554, there is disclosed a process for producing a surfactant composed of a long chain N-acyl acidic amino acid derivative, in which a long chain N-acyl acidic amino acid anhydride is reacted with a compound having a hydroxyl group or an amino group, just like the process disclosed in ~~JP-A-50-2973~~JP-B-50-2973 described above. In this process, in order to prevent coloration in the end product, the reaction is carried out at temperatures higher than the melting point of any one of the ingredients so that the ingredient is in the liquid state during the reaction, or the reaction

is carried out in an inert solvent such as toluene while keeping any one of the ingredients in the liquid state. This process is, however, not a satisfactory one with respect to preventing coloration and the reaction yield (purity) of the end product.

Page 12, delete the paragraph beginning on line 8 with JP-A-10-218754 and ending on line 14 with moisturizing effect.

Page 30, replace the paragraph beginning on line 15 through page 32, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

Examples of  $R^1CO$  include acyl groups derived from the following acids: straight-chain fatty acids such as acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, pentanoic acid, hexanoic acid, heptanoic acid, caprylic acid, pelargonic acid, capric acid, undecanoic acid, lauric acid, tridecanoic acid, myristic acid, pentadecanoic acid, palmitic acid, margaric acid, stearic acid, nonadecanoic acid and arachic acid; branched-chain fatty acids such as 2-butyl-5-methylpentanoic acid, 2-isobutyl-5-methylpentanoic acid, dimethyloctanoic acid, dimethylnonanoic acid, 2-butyl-5-methylhexanoic acid, methylundecanoic acid, dimethyldecanoic acid, 2-ethyl-3-methylnonanoic acid, 2,2-dimethyl-4-ethyloctanoic acid, methyldocosanoic acid, 2-propyl-3-methylnonanoic acid, methyltridecanoic acid, dimethyldodecanoic acid, 2-butyl-3-methylnonanoic acid, methyltetradecanoic acid, ethyltridecanoic acid, propyldodecanoic acid, butylundecanoic acid, pentyldecanoic acid, hexylnonanoic acid, 2-(3-methylbutyl)-3-methylnonanoic acid, 2-(2-methylbutyl)-3-methylnonanoic acid, butylethylnonanoic acid, methylpentadecanoic acid, ethyltetradecanoic acid, propyltridecanoic acid, butyldodecanoic acid, pentylundecanoic acid, hexyldecanoic acid, heptylnonanoic acid, dimethyltetradecanoic acid, butylpentylheptanoic acid, trimethyltridecanoic acid, methylhexadecanoic acid,

ethylpentadecanoic acid, propyltetradecanoic acid, butyltridecanoic acid, pentyl dodecanoic acid, hexylundecanoic acid, heptyldecanoic acid, methylheptylnonanoic acid, dipentylheptanoic acid, methylheptadecanoic acid, ethylhexadecanoic acid, ~~ethylhexadecanoic acid~~, propylpentadecanoic acid, butyltetradecanoic acid, pentyltridecanoic acid, hexyldodecanoic acid, heptylundecanoic acid, octyldecanoic acid, dimethylhexadecanoic acid, methyloctylnonanoic acid, methyloctadecanoic acid, ethylheptadecanoic acid, dimethylheptadecanoic acid, methyloctyldecanoic acid, methylnonadecanoic acid, ~~methylnonadecanoic acid~~, dimethyloctadecanoic acid and butylheptylnonanoic acid; straight-chain monoene acids such as octene acid, nonene acid, decene acid, caprolenic acid, undecylenic acid, linderic acid, obtusilic acid, lauroleinic acid, tridecene acid, tsuzuic acid, myristoleic acid, pentadecene acid, ~~hexadecene~~ hexadecene acid, palmitoleic acid, heptadecene acid, octadecene acid, oleic acid, nonadecene acid and gondoic acid; branched monoene acids such as methylheptene acid, methylnonene acid, methylundecene acid, dimethyldecene acid, methyl dodecene acid, methyltridecene acid, dimethyl dodecene acid, dimethyltridecene acid, methyloctadecene acid, dimethylheptadecene acid and ethyloctadecene acid; di- or tri-ene acids such as linoleic acid, linoelaidic acid, eleostearic acid, linolenic acid, linolenelaidic acid, pseudoeleostearic acid, parinaric acid and arachidonic acid; acetylenic acids such as octynoic acid, nonynoic acid, decynoic acid, undecynoic acid, dodecynoic acid, tridecynoic acid, tetradecynoic acid, pentadecynoic acid, heptadecynoic acid octadecynoic acid, nonadecynoic acid and dimethyloctadecynoic acid; and cyclic acids such as methyleneoctadecenoic acid, methyleneoctdecanoic acid, aleprolic acid, aleprestic acid, aleprylic acid, alepric acid,

hydonicarpic acid, chaulmoogric acid, gorlic acid,  $\alpha$ -cyclopentyl acid,  $\alpha$ -cyclohexyl acid and  $\alpha$ -cyclopentylethyl acid.

Page 38, replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

M-valent polyhydroxyl compounds may be other saccharide residues such as heptose, deoxy-saccharides, amino-saccharides, thio-saccharides, seleno-saccharides, aldonic ~~saccharides~~ acid, uronic acid, sugar acid, ketaldonic acid, anhydrosugars, unsaturated sugars, sugar esters, sugar ethers and glycoside, or polysaccharides such as starch, glycogen, cellulose, chitin and chitosan, or hydrolyzed products thereof.

Page 39, replace the paragraph beginning on line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Examples of m-valent polyamino compounds include: aliphatic diamines such as N,N'-dimethylhydrazine, ethylenediamine, N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine, diaminopropane, diaminobutane, diaminopentane, diaminohexane, diaminoheptane, diaminooctane, diaminononane, diaminodecane, diaminododecane, diaminoadipic acid, diaminopropanoic acid, diaminobutanoic acid and the isomers thereof; aliphatic triamines such as diethylenetriamine, triaminohexane, triaminododecane, 1,8-diamino-4-aminomethyl-octane, 2,6-diaminocapric acid-2-aminoethyl ester, 1,3,6-triaminohexane, 1,6,11-triaminoundecane, di(aminoethyl)amine and the isomers thereof; alicyclic polyamines such as diaminocyclobutane, diaminocyclohexane, 3-aminomethyl-3,5,5-trimethylcyclohexylamine and triaminocyclohexane; aromatic polyamines such as diaminobenzene, diaminotoluene, diaminobenzoic acid, diaminoanthraquinone, diaminobenzenesulfonic acid, ~~diaminobenzoic acid~~ and the

isomers thereof; aliphatic-aromatic polyamines such as diaminoxylene, di(aminomethyl)benzene, di(aminomethyl)pyridine, di(aminomethyl)naphthalene and the isomers thereof; and hydroxyl group-substituted polyamines such as diaminohydroxypropane and the isomers thereof.

Page 105, replace the paragraph beginning on line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

The transmittance of the supernatant at 300 nm was measured with time in the same manner as Example ~~[[25]]~~27 except that the dispersant used in Example 27 was replaced by the following ones. The results are shown in Table 6.